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respectively, the Kantian subjectivism is the direct descendant of the medieval scholasticism, from which it has not been able to escape. The English and French philosophies are, moreover, very similar (as the philosophies of allies should be). The criticism of Kant reminds one at points of that by Professor Dewey.

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The History of Statistics, Their Development and Progress in Many Countries. Collected and edited by JOHN KOREN. New York: Macmillan, 1918. Pp. xii+773. \$7.50.

This useful volume, containing in available form material much needed by teachers of statistics, consists of memoirs to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the American Statistical Association. It was undertaken when the Great War broke out and yet in spite of manifold difficulties was brought to completion in 1918. It forms an authoritative historical statement of the development and organization of official statistics throughout the world, written by the foremost statisticians of the leading nations.

Official statistics, their history and organization, are described for Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Hungary, India, Netherlands, Norway, Russia and Sweden, and for both federal and state systems in the United States. A work of this sort is a sure step in the direction of international comparability in important statistical undertakings. Until we make measurable progress toward the attainment of this first great step in scientific method the science of statistics will lack the universality of procedure which characterizes the work of scientists in the non-social fields.

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Social Work—Essays on the Meeting-Ground of Doctor and Social Worker. By RICHARD C. CABOT, M.D. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1919. Pp. xxvii+188. \$1.50 net.

Diagnosis and treatment are the two essential and complementary phases of all effective social work just as they are of all worth-while medical work. Diagnosis is of little value, especially to the patient, unless it is followed by treatment. Treatment is only accidentally successful unless it is based upon correct diagnosis. Medical and

social ills are frequently so closely knit together that both medical and social treatment are essential to the cure of those ills. Back of such treatment there must be correct social as well as correct medical diagnosis.

This is the platform on which Dr. Cabot bases his analysis of the social worker's task as a social diagnostician or a social therapist. Her rôle is that of an assistant to the physician. Through her he extends the range of his observations into the environment of his patient; likewise through her his treatment reaches more of the causes of the patient's malady.

Dr. Cabot's discussion of the equipment of the medical social worker is a timely contribution to a better understanding of a vexed question. Medical social service has reached that stage in its development at which it needs not only a clear formulation of its scope and function but the realization as well that it is or must be a profession with a task distinct, calling for adequate and specialized professional training, and not an occupation open to any person possessed alone of normal intelligence and a desire to serve, valuable as those qualifications may be.

One point made by Dr. Cabot in his discussion of history-taking is so essential for successful social work and is so frequently lost sight of by social workers that it seems worthy of special comment. He says that there are two ways of looking at the misfortunes of an individual. One is the right point of view, the "historic"; the other is the wrong way, the "catastrophic" or accidental point of view. If the social worker is to make a correct social diagnosis she must view the maladjustments she is studying not as isolated conditions or events but rather as having causes and consequences. In like manner, social treatment worth the while must be curative and corrective rather than palliative. That this is almost always contrary to the beliefs and wishes of the patient makes the social worker's task that much the harder and her success that much the better earned.

JOHN E. RANSOM

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The Disabled Soldier. By DOUGLAS C. MCMURTRIE with an Introduction by JEREMIAH MILBANK. New York: Macmillan, 1919. Pp. xiv+232. \$2.00.

One of the commonplaces of the Great War is the fact that it has had useful by-products. Of these not the least is the fairly general recognition of certain needs and certain principles long known to the intelligent social worker. The War Department spent much time, energy, and